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Annual Report

—OF THE—

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1942

By A. G. GLASS, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health

FARNWORTH :
J. WHATMOUGH, PRINTER, ELLESMERE STREET
1943

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

This is the last Annual Report I shall present to you as your Medical Officer of Health.

In the 22 years during which I have served you, so much has occurred that I feel tempted to trace the gradual evolution that has taken place in all the services since 1921. Paper shortage, however, and other considerations prevent such a lengthy excursion into the past.

It remains for me to express my gratitude to the members of the Health Committee, and indeed to all members of the Corporation for the kindness and the support which have ever been extended to me.

I have served them to the best of my ability, and it is with sincere regret that I now sever my long connection with the Borough. May it go from strength to strength!

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A. G. GLASS.

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman : COUNCILLOR M. P. McGRATH.

Vice-Chairman : ALDERMAN J. HEATHCOTE.

Members :

The Mayor (Alderman A. Jones, J.P.)

Alderman (Rev.) J. Wilcockson

Councillor A. Hindley

„ R. H. Rowlands, C.C.

„ R. H. Urmson, J.P.

„ A. H. R. Willis

„ R. Ralphson

„ P. Helme

„ S. Bowling

„ H. H. Bradshaw

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman : COUNCILLOR R. H. ROWLANDS, C.C.

Vice-Chairman : THE MAYORESS (MRS. H. JONES)

Members :

THE MAYOR (ALDERMAN A. JONES, J.P.)

Alderman (Rev.) J. Wilcockson

Councillor Beck

Alderman Heathcote

Alderman McManus

Alderman Seddon, J.P.

Councillor McGrath

„ Smith

„ Almond

Co-opted Members :

Mrs. Cooper

Mrs. Scott

Mrs. Wilcockson

Mrs. Stevenson

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area = 1504 statute acres.

Population = Census, 1931 ... 28,717
 Estimated, 1942 (middle) ... 26,260.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

BIRTHS :

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	438	233	205
Illegitimate	19	8	11
Total ...	457	241	216
Birth-rate per 1,000 population	17.4		
Still Births	24	17	7
Rate per 1,000 Total Births...	49.9		

DEATHS : 304 145 159

Death-rate per 1,000
 population ... 11.6

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age :

Legitimate	33	15	18
Illegitimate	2	—	2
Infantile Mortality Rate ...	76.0		

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)... 37
 Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... 2
 Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)... 3

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1942.

Cancer	37
Diarrhœa under 2 years	3
Syphilis	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	6
Other tuberculous diseases	1
Appendicitis	1
Diabetes	3
Heart disease	78
Other circulatory diseases...	3
Bronchitis	32
Pneumonia (all forms)	8
Measles	2

Other respiratory diseases	...	...	6
Other digestive diseases	...	...	9
Nephritis	...	...	14
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	24
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	18
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	2
Road traffic accidents	..	...	3
Suicide	...	...	1
Other deaths from violence	...	...	10
Other maternal causes	...	...	2
All other causes	...	...	40
Total			...304

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

(a) Medical :

Medical Officer of Health	Alexander G. Glass, M.A., M.D., D.P.H. (also M.O.H. Kearsley U.D.C.)
Ante-natal Clinic	...R. Newton, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.O.G.
Puerperal pyrexia	...James Scott, M.B., Ch.B. (as required)
Ophthalmic Surgeon	...John Morrison, M.B. Ch.B. (also School Oculist),
Aurist	...G. Gordon Mowat B.A., M.B., F.R.C.S. (also School Aurist)
Dental Officer	...G. C. Royley, L.D.S. (also School Dental Officer)

(b) Others :

Chief Sanitary Inspector	...H. T. Ogden, M.S.I.A.
Sanitary Inspector	...A. H. S. Lewis, M.S.I.A.
Health Visitors	...Miss A. Pendlebury, A.R.S.I. Certs M.C.W. (also School Nurses) and C.M.B. Mrs. H. Cunliffe, S.R.N. Miss P. Law, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (R.S.I.)

Miss H. E. S. Holmes, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V., (R.S.I.)
Clerks.....T. Shaw (part time)
Miss J. Harrison (part time)

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

- (a) General. No change.
- (b) Infectious Diseases. No change.

MIDWIVES.

No change.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

No change.

HOSPITALS FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

(1) Smallpox.

The arrangements which have existed for many years with Ainsworth Hospital for the reception of cases of smallpox still hold, but as that hospital has now been taken over by the Government for the treatment of cases of minor infectious disease occurring in billeted households for war evacuees, Ainsworth has arranged for any cases from Farnworth to be received temporarily at Astley Sanatorium.

(2) Other Infectious Diseases.

Cases of infectious disease which could not be isolated at home were accommodated by the Bolton Corporation in their infectious diseases hospital.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

As before.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

As before.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

As before.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

As before.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Accommodation at the end of 1942—

Number of privy middens	...	...	...	4
„ closets attached to these middens	...	...	...	12
„ pail closets	...	...	...	5
„ fresh water closets	...	...	...	8860
„ waste water closets	...	...	...	288
„ dry ashpits (excluding middens)	...	...	...	Nil
„ movable ashbins for refuse	...	...	...	8456
„ houses on water carriage system	...	...	...	8263

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE. As before.

TIPS. As before.

Sanitary Inspections during 1942 (including Housing).

No. of premises visited, 931.

Defects or nuisances: No. discovered 966, No. abated 725.

No. of notices served: Informal 368, Statutory 55.

Legal proceedings were taken in one case, but were withdrawn on payment of costs.

Shops and Offices—

	Inspections	Defects and Contraven- tions	Remedied
(a) Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences	15	3	3
(b) Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e., ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc	—	—	—

SMOKE ABATEMENT. No action taken.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

	No. of In- spections	Notices	Prosecu- tions
1. Factories with mechanical power	10	—	—
Factories without mechanical power	4	—	—
Other premises	—	—	—
2. Defects found:	Nil		

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Particulars of action taken during the year :—

No. of houses disinfested :—

(a) By Hydrogen Cyanide (carried out by Contractor)

(1)	Council houses	...	...	...	...	...	4
(2)	Other houses	...	...	...	...	...	2

(b) Insecticides.

(1)	Council houses	...	...	...	...	...	4
(2)	Other houses	...	...	...	...	...	17

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

There are 11 dairy farms in the district with approximately 210 cows. The farms are inspected at frequent intervals for sanitary defects. They are all provided with dairies which have no communication with other buildings.

EXAMINATION OF MILK SAMPLES.

20 samples were examined during the year, 7 of which were bacteriologically unsatisfactory. Tubercle bacilli was not found in any of the samples.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

All premises where food is stored or exposed for sale are inspected at regular intervals. During the year the following food was condemned and surrendered: 521 lbs. beef, 106 lbs. lamb, 90 lbs. pork, 59 lbs. bacon, 27 lbs. cheese, 140 oranges, 90 apples, 2097 tins of various foods.

(c) ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The County Council are the Authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, and samples are taken by the County Sanitary Inspector in collaboration with the local Sanitary Inspector.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DIPHTHERIA.

13 cases of diphtheria (including 1 case from Townleys Hospital belonging to an outside district), were notified during the year, against an average of 24 for the previous 5 years. There were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN.

Antitoxin is provided by the Council free of charge for patients residing within the district. A supply is always available for medical practitioners, and is supplied in phials of 8,000 and 10,000 units and 1,000 units, the two former for curative and the latter for prophylactic purposes.

During 1942 antitoxin to the amount of 150,000 units was issued to medical men.

ACTIVE IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

An immunisation clinic was held weekly during the year, and much propaganda work was undertaken.

The following table shows the number of children who were fully protected during the year : —

Under 1 year	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-6 yrs.	6-7 yrs.	7-8 yrs.	8-9 yrs.
62	161	93	95	65	90	92	109	108
9-10 yrs.	10-11 yrs.	11-12 yrs.	12-13 yrs.	13-14 yrs.	Over 14	Total		
87	133	100	104	74	10	1383		

There was one case of diphtheria notified in an immunised child.

SCARLET FEVER.

During the year 81 cases (including 2 outside district cases from Townleys Hospital) were notified, against an average of 91 per year for the previous five years. There were no deaths.

PNEUMONIA.

Of the notifiable varieties 19 cases were reported, while the average number during the previous five years was 52 per year.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

32 cases were notified during the year, only 3 of which belonged to Farnworth; the remainder were notified from Townleys Hospital and belonged to outside districts.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

One case was notified from Townleys Hospital, and was from an outside district.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED DURING 1942.

NATURE OF SPECIMEN.	No.
Swabs (for diphtheria) ...	34 (5 positive)
Blood (for enteric fever) ...	1 (negative)

The following is a list of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1942 :—

Disease.	No.
Scarlet fever.	81
Diphtheria.	13
Acute primary pneumonia	19
Puerperal pyrexia.	32
Ophthalmia neonatorum.	1
Cerebro spinal fever.	1
Erysipelas.	6
Measles.	392
Whooping Cough.	18

Cases removed to hospital from the district :—

Scarlet fever ...	37
Diphtheria ...	8
Cerebro spinal fever ...	1

TUBERCULOSIS :

Cases notified :—

Respiratory ...	15
Non-respiratory ...	8

The treatment of tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council.

SCABIES.

In common with other districts, a large number of cases of scabies occurred during the year.

These were mostly confined to school children, but in many cases the younger members of the family were also affected, and in a few cases the parents contracted the disease. All were treated at the clinic, and by the end of the year the disease had considerably abated.

No. of pre-school children treated ...	18
“ “ “ “ attendances	81
No. of adults treated ...	2
“ “ “ “ attendances ...	11

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

1. HEALTH VISITING.

Each of the four nurses employed by the Council carries out the combined duties of the school medical service and of health visiting.

2. THE WELFARE CLINIC. As before.

3. ANTENATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINIC.

During the year 31 sessions were held, the Gynæcologist being in attendance.

303 expectant mothers came for consultation and examination, and they made 708 attendances. Of the 303 cases, 100 attended on one occasion only, 101 came twice, 46 three times, 28 four times, 17 five times, 6 six times, 5 seven times. 146 were expectant for the first time (primiparæ). The ages of the primiparæ are shown in the following table:—

Under 20	20-25	25-30	30-35	35-40	Over 40
5	61	45	27	6	2

All morbid conditions found on examination were given appropriate treatment.

CONFINEMENT HISTORY OF PATIENTS.

By the end of the year 257 of the patients had been confined. The following table gives particulars regarding the confinements:—

	Primiparæ.	Multiparæ.
No. confined	119	138
Confinement at home	34	66
„ „ Townleys Hospital	81	69
„ „ St. Mary's Hospitals	3	2
Confinement at other Institutions ..	1	1
Vertex presentation	113	128
Breech presentation	3	4
Abortion	1	1
B.B.A.	1	5
Other	1	—
Labour normal	98	129
Labour normal but prolonged	5	1
Ante-partum hæmorrhage	1	2
Forceps delivery	10	4
Cæsarian section	4	1
Abortion	1	1
Ruptured perineum	6	2
Placenta prævia	1	1
Adherent placenta	1	1
Post-partum hæmorrhage	1	—
Eclampsia	3	—
Condition of mother satisfactory ...	117	135
„ „ „ delayed recovery ...	2	3

Condition of child :

Alive and well	...	...	...	...	112	128
Still-born	...	...	...	...	3	6
Died within 2 weeks	...	...	...	...	2	3
" " 3 weeks	...	...	...	...	1	—

One case attended the post-natal clinic during the year.

4. CONVALESCENT HOMES. As before.

5. HOME HELPS.

Two were supplied during the year.

6. MATERNITY CASES.

Arrangements exist with Townleys Hospital, whereby any woman can be admitted for her confinement. Payment is made according to her means. 136 cases were admitted to Townleys during the year.

In addition to the arrangements with Townleys Hospital the Council has made financial arrangements with St. Mary's Hospitals, Manchester, for the reception of difficult cases of labour. Five such cases were admitted during the year.

7. MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were two maternal deaths during 1942.

8. EMERGENCY UNIT.

In the case of confinement taking place at home, arrangements have been made with St. Mary's Hospitals for an emergency unit to be provided if the patient is so gravely ill that removal to a hospital would be dangerous. There were no cases requiring this service during 1942.

9. INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

At the end of the year there were only three cases on the register. They were visited regularly.

10. DENTAL TREATMENT.

Dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers,
for the year 1942.

No. of mothers referred by M.O.H.	...	58
" " " treated	...	53
" " attendances	...	176
" " permanent fillings	...	57
" " " extractions	...	81
" " scalings and polishings	...	23
" " dentures	...	12
" " " remade	...	3
Other treatment to permanent teeth	...	9

Dental treatment for pre-school children, for the year 1942.

No. of children referred by M.O.H.	...	36
" " " treated		31
" " attendances		56
" " of fillings in temporary teeth	...	26
" " temporary extractions		38
" " cases given advice		13
Other treatment to temporary teeth	...	15

11. TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.

Dr. G. Gordon Mowat, Anrist to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee and to the Education Committee, held 20 sessions during the year. 21 pre-school children were examined and treated.

11 pre-school children had operative treatment at Bolton Royal Infirmary.

12. MINOR AILMENTS.

83 pre-school children attended the clinic during the year, making in all 384 attendances.

13. ORTHOPÆDICS.

20 pre-school children attended the Lancashire County Council Orthopædic Clinic at Kearsley during the year, and made 40 attendances. 20 surgical appliances, i.e., boots, irons, etc., were supplied through the Clinic. 2 pre-school children received treatment at Biddulph Orthopædic Hospital (Lancashire C.C.)

14. DEFECTIVE VISION.

43 pre-school children were examined by the School Oculist. In 20 cases suitable glasses were prescribed, and for the remainder other treatment was advised.

15. MEDICAL OFFICER'S CONSULTATIONS AT THE CLINIC.

The Medical Officer had 422 consultations at the clinic during the year. Defects were treated.

Summary of work done by Maternity and Child Welfare Department,
in 1942 :—

Visits :—First visits	...	...	...	449
Revisits, under 1 year	...	...	...	2052
" 1-5 years	...	...	...	3187
Expectant Mothers :—				
First visits	...	...	...	183
Revisits	...	...	...	247

Infectious Diseases	...	...	185
Infant Life Protection	...	...	28
Special visits	...	...	253
Total	...	...	6584

Clinic :	No. of Infants under 12 months	...	589
	Children between 1 and 5 years	...	761
	Total attendances of above two groups	...	7637
	Average attendance per session	...	50
	Expectant Mothers—Number	...	351
	" Attendances	...	1706

The usual well known brands of milk are stocked at the clinic and are available to any mother on payment.

The sales of dried milk amounted to 12,080 lbs.

